



### A Few Words from Mr Hancox

As we reach the end of another busy and productive half term, I want to take a moment to say a huge well done to all our pupils, staff, and families for their continued hard work and dedication. A special mention must go to our Year 6 and Year 2 pupils, who have shown incredible focus and resilience during their SATs. We are so proud of the effort and determination you've all demonstrated—well done! Looking ahead, we're excited for what the next half term has in store. We have a fantastic line-up of events to look forward to, including Sports Day, our vibrant Summer Fair, and the much-anticipated FIERTE Art Festival. These events are a wonderful opportunity to come together as a school community and celebrate the talents and achievements of our pupils. Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back, refreshed and ready for a fun-filled final half term!



11 million tonnes of plastic waste leaks into our rivers, lakes and seas every year! We want you to do something about it! People need to be taught to refuse, reduce, reuse and rethink their plastic use.

Design a poster that persuades people to

do something about their plastic waste. Create your poster on a piece of A4 paper, make sure your message is clear.

Put your name and class on the back and hand it to Mr FitzPatrick by Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June. The best posters will be put on display and their creators will win some awesome prizes!

### What is happening in the Summer Term

6 <sup>th</sup> June	Reception Forest Friday - Year 5/6 Parent Lunch
11 <sup>th</sup> June	New to Reception Parent meeting
13 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 1/2 Forest Friday - Year 3/4 Parent Lunch
16 <sup>th</sup> June	Fathers' Day – Cake and crafts
20 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 3/4 Forest Friday – Year 1/2 Parent Lunch
23 <sup>rd</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup> June	The Scholastic Book Fair
27 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 5/6 Forest Friday - Reception Parent lunch
30 <sup>th</sup> June	Chocolate/Alcohol non uniform day (for Summer Fair).
1 <sup>st</sup> July	Sports Day
4 <sup>th</sup> July	Summer Fair
Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> July	Acro dance at Tamworth Castle Grounds
Week of 7 <sup>th</sup> July	Fierte Arts Festival (All week)
9 <sup>th</sup> July	Reserve Sports Day
18 <sup>th</sup> July	Summer Finale menu
10 <sup>th</sup> July	Summer Discos – (N, R, Y1, Y2) (Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6)
10 <sup>th</sup> July	Transition day (meet the new teacher) Reception (New to school transition)
11 <sup>th</sup> July	Reports go out
14 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Leavers' Party night
15 <sup>th</sup> July	Drop in Parents' Evening
15 <sup>th</sup> July	Interhouse Sports Competition (In PE lessons – Parents invited)
15 <sup>th</sup> July	Rock Steady Concerts
18 <sup>th</sup> July	Summer Holiday

### Well done to our 15 Reads this half term!

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Auben M	Harper C	Stan C	Juan A	Charlotte E	Daisy L
Rowan H	Robyn F	Ava D	Oliver A	Millie H	Mia S
Sofia L	Jessie H	Eden D	Aston F	Harry M	Mya S
Maisy P		Ellie F	Joy C	Ben M	Tori S
William S		Hollie G	Isla G	Katherine W	Year 6
		Maisie H	Terrance H		Mariyah B
		Charlie L	Oscar S		Logan F
		Rebecca M	Harley S		Lacey K
		Ella R			Isabella S
		Zara S			Emily Y

### Tamworth Arts Festival: "Kaleidoscope of Colours"

We are thrilled to announce that our school will be participating in the upcoming Tamworth Arts Festival, titled "Kaleidoscope of Colours". This vibrant celebration of creativity will take place during the week beginning Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July and will bring together 22 primary and high schools for a weeklong festival of art, music, and dance.

Throughout the week, our students will have the unique opportunity to collaborate with professionals from the Royal Ballet and Opera House. They will engage in singing, performing, and creating visual art, all while celebrating the rich diversity and talent of Tamworth.

On Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July, 30 of our students will represent the school with a special acro dance performance at Tamworth Castle Grounds. This performance, developed during PE lessons, will last approximately 15 minutes and is provisionally scheduled between 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM (final timing to be confirmed).

The day promises to be a fun-filled family event, running from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, with plenty to see and do. Families are encouraged to bring picnics and enjoy a day of celebration in the heart of our community.

# Attendance for the year

Reception– 89.2%

Year 1/2 - 93.4%

Year 3/4 – 96.2%

Year 5/6 – 96.3%

## Value Champions

16th May

Rec – Doltan c

Y1/2 – All of Year 2

Y3/4 - Ben M

Y5/6 – All of Year 6

23rd May

Rec – Jayden M

Y1/2 – Harper J

Y3/4 - Maci A

Y5/6 – Molly W

# House Points

House Points this half term!

House Points this year!

 The Lions	1372	3500
 The Scorpions	1334	3337
 The Sharks	1204	3459
 The Crocodiles	1153	3275

## School Council

School Council have been busy as ever, coming up with ways to make our school even more amazing. Recently we launched our annual Spring creative competition, held an Easter Bunny Hop house team challenge and interviewed prospective staff for positions within school. This week, after collecting ideas from across the school in our suggestion box, we discussed ways to reduce litter in our school grounds. Watch out for our litter poster competition that will be coming out after the holidays and who knows, perhaps your design will end up fronting our school-wide campaign!



## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# MINECRAFT

Still the best-selling game of all time, Minecraft is a bastion of creativity and community, with hundreds of millions of players building and crafting in its almost endless world. The popularity of Minecraft among gamers of all ages means it's important to remain informed about the game, including how to play it safely and whether it's suitable for the children in your care. That's why we've created this guide explaining the risks associated with Minecraft and how to ensure a purely enjoyable gaming experience.



### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### SCARY ELEMENTS

While Minecraft can be seen as a kind of 'digital LEGO', certain game modes include creatures accompanied by eerie sound effects. These can be a bit too frightening for some younger players, potentially leading to distressing in-game combat and other encounters – although the combat is quite basic and free from any real depiction of violence.

#### GRIEFING

Some players in Minecraft take pleasure in deliberately damaging or destroying another person's creations. This behaviour, known as 'griefing', is a form of bullying – it intentionally ruins someone else's experience by erasing hours of their work and forcing them to start over. Many public servers regard griefing as a serious offence and often ban those who engage in it.

#### ADDICTIVENESS

Minecraft's focus on creativity means that, as with any creative endeavour, it can be easy to get carried away. If your child is finding it difficult to manage their time because they're drawn in by Minecraft's gameplay loop of resource gathering and building elaborate projects, it could have a knock-on effect on their social interactions and schoolwork.

#### PUBLIC SERVERS AND COMMUNICATIONS

With public servers being so easily accessible in Minecraft, it's highly likely that children will end up chatting with strangers through the in-game text chat. Some servers even place an emphasis on social interaction, actively encouraging communication between players. While there's nothing inherently wrong with this, it does carry certain risks. In addition to the concerns around speaking with strangers online, players who host their own servers may have their IP addresses exposed, posing a further security concern.

#### ADDITIONAL PURCHASES

Minecraft is available as a free trial on a variety of devices; however, the full game requires a one-off purchase. After that, players have the option to buy additional cosmetic upgrades or subscribe to Minecraft Realms. Realms is an entirely optional subscription service that allows users to run their own private server to play with friends. Without proper supervision, younger players may end up making unintended or excessive purchases.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

#### CHOOSE THE RIGHT MODE

Selecting Creative or Peaceful mode allows children to play Minecraft without having to contend with enemies. It's also a great way for you to get used to playing the game with them, since the difficulty level is far lower. This allows you to work together on a long-term project, creating something special without the threat of enemies and creatures attacking you or damaging your building.

#### HOST A PRIVATE SERVER

The easiest way to find a safe server for children to play on is to make one yourself. Hosting a server prevents strangers from finding it, unless they've been given its address and password. A private server also lets you control who's allowed to enter and – if necessary – ban anyone who shouldn't be there. This is the closest equivalent to parental controls in Minecraft. Hosting a private server, however, will cost a monthly fee.

#### TALK ABOUT STRANGERS

At some point in their lives, almost everyone will make contact with a stranger online. Talking to children about online safety, therefore, is essential – as is having a plan for dealing with any hostile or difficult people. It's important that a child knows never to tell a stranger about themselves online and that they should come to you straight away if they do encounter a problem.

#### RESEARCH CONTENT CREATORS

Much of Minecraft's early stages can be an exercise in frustration for players who don't know where to start. Thankfully, there's a wealth of material online and in video format to help you learn the basics. Just be mindful that some of this content may not be appropriate for children, so you should consider watching it yourself first.

#### PLAY MINECRAFT WITH YOUR CHILD

As a creative building tool, Minecraft makes it great fun for children to team up and construct vast buildings accompanied by imaginative landscapes, much like working with LEGO or model kits. Playing in a game mode that includes enemies can encourage critical thinking and teamwork; however, you should consider which game mode is appropriate for the child in your care.

#### Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Gaming Editor at the Daily Star, and has worked in games media for more than 8 years. A long-time gaming enthusiast, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety for children of all ages.



Please come and join us at the next **Parent Inclusion Meeting**



**Wednesday 18th June**  
2.30pm at Ankermoor Primary School

Please join us for an informal meeting with other parents. We will be focusing on supporting children through change, transitions and the summer holiday. We will also be asking for feedback about ideas for next year.

Refreshments will be provided.

For any questions, please contact the school office or email [send@ankermoor.org](mailto:send@ankermoor.org)



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23rd – 27th June

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# Newsletter 15 – 23rd May 2025

Fierte Multi-Academy Trust

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Executive HeadTeacher: Mr David Shakeshaft

